

Appln No. 09/967,181
Amdt date February 21, 2006
Reply to Office action of January 27, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 9 and 12 are independent. In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and a timely indication of allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1, 3-8 and 12-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 and 9 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/952,656. Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer to Obviate A Double Patenting Rejection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-8 and 12-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 2 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is now in condition for allowance. As such, Applicant submits that claim 2 is also in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations it contains therein. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 2 be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 9-11 are allowed. Claims 9-11 have not been amended by the current Response and therefore remain in condition for allowance.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance, and a timely indication of allowance is respectfully requested. If there

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are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated.

Should any additional fees be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 04-1579 (56.0582).

Respectfully submitted,



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